

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 099284 TOSEC 110043

64

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 INR-07 /035 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:WPKELLY:MJK

APPROVED BY EUR - AAHARTMAN

S/S -O:DLMACK

EUR/WE- MR. BARBOUR

----- 086673

P 240049Z APR 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 099284 TOSEC 110043

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT:BRIEFING MEMORANDUM - PORTUGAL'S LEGISLATIVE
ELECTIONS - APRIL 25

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM HARTMAN

THIS SUNDAY'S PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ARE LIKELY
TO COME OFF WITHOUT MAJOR VIOLENCE OR UNPLEASANT
SURPRISES. WE EXPECT THE SOCIALISTS TO EKE OUT A NARROW
VICTORY OVER THE PPD, THE CDS TO FINISH A STRONG THIRD,
AND THE COMMUNISTS TO RETAIN THEIR HOLD ON 10-12 OF THE
VOTE. AFTER TWO YEARS OF CONTINUOUS AND NUMBING
POLITICAL RHETORIC, THE PORTUGUESE VOTER SEEMS TO BE
APATHETIC. THE MOST RECENT POLLS (MARCH) SHOWED NEARLY
HALF THE ELECTORATE STILL UNDECIDED. EMBASSY LISBON
FORECASTS:

---SOCIALISTS, 33 PERCENT (37.9 IN 1975)

---PPD, 29 PERCENT (26.4 IN 1975)

---CDS, 17 PERCENT (7.6 IN 1975)

---COMMUNISTS, 11 PERCENT (12.5 IN 1975)

---ULTRA-LEFT, BLANKS, ETC, 10 PERCENT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 099284 TOSEC 110043

THE MOST INTENSIVE PHASE OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY WILL

BEGIN, NOT END, WITH THE ELECTIONS. CANDIDATES HAVE

YET TO BE ANNOUNCED FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE
SCHEDULED TENTATIVELY FOR LATE JUNE OR EARLY JULY,
BARGAINING OVER COALITION ARRANGEMENTS PROMISES TO BE
BOTH DIFFICULT AND LENGTHY, AND THERE ARE ALREADY
RUMBLINGS WITHIN THE OPERATIONAL MILITARY ABOUT THE
DESIRABILITY OF BEHIND-THE-SCENES MANIPULATION OF THE
POLITICAL PARTIES. THE "OPERATIONALS" FAVOR A
SOCIALIST-PPD COALITION AND ARE TALKING ABOUT EASING
OUT THE HARD LINE SA CARNEIRO AS PPD SECRETARY
GENERAL AND REPLACING HIM WITH MAGALHAES MOTA, A PPD
LEADER MORE AMENABLE TO COOPERATION WITH SOARES.

COALITION PROSPECTS. THE NEW GOVERNMENT
WILL FACE THE IMMEDIATE NECESSITY OF IMPOSING AN
UNPOPULAR AUSTERITY PROGRAM ON A COUNTRY PLAGUED
ALREADY WITH MOUNTING INFLATION AND SEVERE UNEMPLOYMENT.
WHEN THE ELECTION DUST SETTLES, THE PARTIES MAY SEE
MORE ADVANTAGES IN OPPOSITION THAN IN GOVERNMENT.
SOARES HAS ALREADY SAID THE SOCIALISTS WOULD GO INTO
OPPOSITION IF THEY FAILED TO WIN SUFFICIENT VOTES (ABOUT
40 PERCENT) TO PUT TOGETHER A MINORITY CABINET.
THIS MAY HAVE BEEN AN ELECTION TACTIC.

THE PRESIDENCY. NORTHERN MILITARY REGION
COMMANDER PIRES VELOSO IS EMERGING AS THE CANDIDATE OF
THE OPERATIONAL MILITARY, BUT NO CANDIDATES HAVE FORMALLY
DECLARED THEMSELVES. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF EANES SEEMS
TO BE MORE VALUABLE WHERE HE IS AND IS NO LONGER
CONSIDERED TO BE A SERIOUS CONTENDER FOR PRESIDENT.
PRIME MINISTER PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO HAS FADED FAST
BUT IS STILL IN THE RUNNING. GENERAL GALVAO DE
MELO, NOW RETIRED, IS THE STRONGEST POTENTIAL CANDIDATE
ON THE RIGHT (HE IS CDS) BUT IS WITHHOLDING A
DECISION ON HIS CANDIDACY UNTIL HE SEES WHO WILL
BE THE MILITARY NOMINEE.

SISCO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, ELECTION FORECASTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE099284
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WPKELLY:MJK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760155-0434
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760426/aaaaavmb.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM - PORTUGAL'S LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS - APRIL 25
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006